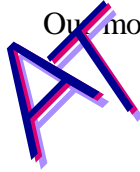


The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

Bi-weekly  
Newsletter



# W O R K



## Happy New Year



I would like to take this opportunity to extend best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year in 2006.

Your accomplishments in 2005 make us all proud. Our facilities remain safe, secure and orderly. Incidents are down, and we are making great progress in our efforts to successfully reintegrate offenders into the community in support of public safety.

For those who volunteered with the hurricane relief efforts, and those in the military who continue to serve our country, you have my endless admiration for your courage and valiant efforts.

The men and women who work for the Connecticut Department of Correction are truly the best correctional professionals in the country. We continue to set the bar and others look to us to lead the way. You daily demonstrate PRIDE - Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity and Excellence. For your support and unwavering commitment to the profession of corrections throughout the year, I say a heartfelt Thank You.



Sincerely,

Theresa C. Lantz  
Commissioner

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### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

About and for  
correctional  
professionals

January 1 - 14,  
2006

# Generous Donations Support Big Brothers Big Sisters

Director of Security Dennis Jones and Volunteer Program Manager Mary Dunn, Department of Correction Coordinators for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program wanted to thank all those who showed their support by bringing an unwrapped toy to the agency Christmas Party held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. The toys that were donated and collected that evening were recently delivered to the staff at Nutmeg Big Brothers/Big Sisters and they stated, "The Department of Correction went out of their way and showed their generosity during this past holiday season. We are fortunate to benefit from your agency's supportive staff members."



(L-R) Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters staff Regional Director Susan McGann, and Support Coordinator Gloria Beltran are excited about their delivery from the DOC .

## AT Pride Work

for  
January 1 - 14,  
2006

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff

24 Wolcott Hill  
Road, Wethersfield,  
CT 06109

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz  
Commissioner

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## Care and Share 2005

District Food Service Manager Joseph Testa served as the Lead Coordinator for the Department of Correction with the 2005 Governor's Care & Share Food Drive. He requested that each facility appoint a representative to work with him to coordinate this year's Food Drive Program. During the holiday season less fortunate people in the State of Connecticut look to shelters and soup kitchens for help. This year was no exception. Thanks to the generosity of the staff of the Department of Correction who rallied together to support this worthy cause, this year's food drive was a huge success. At the culmination of the drive Mr. Testa stated, "I would like to thank each and every staff person that assisted and contributed to the Food Drive. Your monetary and food donations were greatly needed and appreciated."



(L-R) DFSM Joe Testa (South District) and CFSS2 Carlton Vaughn (Cafe 24 North) "show-off" some of the food items that were donated by DOC staff members.

# Commissioner Highlights Domestic Violence

*Commissioner Theresa Lantz recently included the following message regarding domestic violence in staff paychecks. Because of the importance of confronting this issue, it is reprinted here.*

As the recent slaying of a Connecticut police officer by her former boyfriend so vividly reminds us, domestic violence is a tragic reality within our society and, in particular, for the law enforcement community.

Studies have shown that law enforcement personnel and their families are up to four times more likely to experience domestic violence. Nationally, while only about ten percent of the overall population suffer as a result of this behavior, law enforcement families are victimized at a rate of some forty percent. There is belief that correctional personnel may be even more prone to resorting to violence involving their loved ones than other members of the law enforcement community.

Within the ranks of the Connecticut Department of Correction, arrests for domestic violence are sadly not uncommon. Whether it is the stress of the job, the constant tension of always being vigilant against danger or the inability to leave the routine, structure and regimentation behind when the shift is done, we all must recognize the potential for this behavior and take the necessary and appropriate steps to prevent it.

If you are experiencing stress that you are having difficulty coping with, please contact the Employee Assistance Program at 888-EAP-8900. All calls are strictly confidential. I have recently asked our EAP provider to offer specialized assistance regarding domestic violence. Their website, [www.theeap.com](http://www.theeap.com), details the warning signs of domestic violence. Act now before the stress may lead to something worse.

If you are aware of a co-worker who seems to be losing control, intervene and refer him or her to the help they need. A call to an EAP counselor will provide you with information on as to how to approach your co-worker. All too often the final act of domestic violence is marked by months and in some cases years of escalating inappropriate and controlling actions and threats toward loved ones.

Finally, if you are a victim contact EAP. Report any incidents of violence or the threat of violence to the police. If necessary, obtain a protective order and ultimately make the difficult decision to leave the relationship if your safety and that of your loved ones is in jeopardy.

**Domestic violence does not discriminate. It impacts men and women of all ages, races, religions, education and economic levels. This is not just someone else's problem. It ultimately can affect our entire correctional family and it is, therefore, the responsibility of all of us to do whatever we can to combat this destructive behavior.**

Pride at Work, Jan. 1 - 14, 2006 p.3

## Around the cell block



**Michigan-** Male officers have been removed from female prison housing units in an effort to halt two decades of controversy and complaints of sexual misconduct.

**North Carolina-** The areas where smoking is permitted in prison will be limited when a new law takes effect at the beginning of the year.

**California-** The star of the Johnny Cash movie, "Walk the Line" attended a screening of the film at Folsom State prison nearly four decades after Cash performed there.

**Arkansas-** The state spent \$70,000 out of the inmate welfare fund so that every inmate would have \$6.00 to spend on commissary for the holidays.

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## Condolence



Warden Giovanni Gomez and the staff at Brooklyn CI are saddened to announce the death of Beverly Berube, mother of Officer Michael Shabenas

and mother-in-law of Secretary Gloria Shabenas.



# Food Service Awards

Director of Food Services, Robert Frank, joined with his staff recently to honor their efforts during the Annual Food Service Awards held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. Captain Robert Rutchik of York CI was awarded a Plaque of Appreciation by Director Frank and Deputy Commissioner Carol Salsbury for his help to the food services staff during the year. This year, Director Frank split the Food Service Supervisor of the Year Award among all of his supervisors.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Carol Salsbury, Captain Robert Rutchik and Director Robert Frank.



Deputy Commissioner Carol Salsbury and Director Robert Frank with the Food Service Supervisors

Pride at Work, Jan. 1 - 14, 2006 p.4

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Lee, Beverly Co                | McWCI   |
| Linares, Edgardo Lt            | McWCI   |
| Lizotte, Marc CO               | CCI     |
| Long, Devonian CTO             | McWCI   |
| Luna, Norberto Capt            | McWCI   |
| Mack, Walter CFSS II           | McWCI   |
| Magoon, Duncan CS              | CO      |
| Maldonado, Edward Capt         | McWCI   |
| Mangiafico, Sebastian Capt     | McWCI   |
| Mannette, Stephen CFSS II      | McWCI   |
| Marston, Jason CTO             | McWCI   |
| Matthewson, Ken CS             | HCC     |
| Mattos, Diana CC               | McWCI   |
| McCarroll, Rec Supv            | MYI     |
| McCoy, Mary SST                | MYI     |
| McKissick, William Rev         | McWCI   |
| Michaud, David CC              | MYI     |
| Miller, Fred CO                | McWCI   |
| Mills, Robert CFSS II          | McWCI   |
| Mitsou, Michael CFSS II        | McWCI   |
| Moller, Robert Capt            | McWCI   |
| Morris, Larry PPO II           | CO      |
| O'Connor William CO            | CCI     |
| O'Gorman, Frank CC             | McWCI   |
| Paskins, Shellie CC            | McWCI   |
| Patz, John Capt                | McWCI   |
| Pope, Reggie CS                | ECI     |
| Rodriguez, Natalie PPO I       | CO      |
| Rodriguez, Neftali Capt        | NCI     |
| Rossi, Ralph CFSS II           | McWCI   |
| Sato, Kirk CFSS II             | McWCI   |
| Schain, Breina Sec I           | MYI     |
| Schaub, Scott Fire Safety Supv | CO      |
| Scott, Gloria CO               | McWCI   |
| Shea, James Capt               | NCI     |
| Shortridge, Sandra Lt          | Brgn CI |
| Soto, Erica PPT                | CO      |
| Steele, Mary Jane Rec Spec     | McWCI   |
| Stratton, Rich CS              | ECI     |
| Tellar, Irwin CO               | McWCI   |
| Thibodeau, Micahel CO          | McWCI   |
| Tighman, Lawrence CO           | MYI     |
| Vega, William CO               | McWCI   |
| Wells, John CO                 | McWCI   |
| Wright, Gary CS                | McWCI   |
| Wyzik, Edward CO               | McWCI   |
| Ziennicki, Teofe CFSS II       | McWCI   |

## MVP's

|                             |       |                            |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| Acciardo, James CO          | McWCI | Dulaire, Stanford CO       | McWCI |
| Aldi, John CS               | McWCI | Frey, Steven Capt          | McWCI |
| Andrews, Lomon CO           | CCI   | Grady, Thomas CFSS II      | McWCI |
| Barone, Sandra CS           | McWCI | Gurski, John CO            | McWCI |
| Bartlett, James Voc Ed Inst | McWCI | Hagans, Terri Capt         | MYI   |
| Bertrand, Mary CO           | MYI   | Hannon, Matthew CO         | McWCI |
| Burke, Timothy Capt         | McWCI | Haraghey, Sandie Sec II    | McWCI |
| Carney, John CO             | CCI   | Hightower, Keith Capt      | McWCI |
| Carra, Paul CFSS II         | McWCI | Holley, Kim SSDH           | MYI   |
| Carrasquillo, Rafael CO     | MYI   | Huddleston, Roshell Lt     | McWCI |
| Cauley, Michael CFSS II     | McWCI | Jones, Regina CO           | McWCI |
| Cleaver, Michael Capt       | McWCI | Johnson, Jesse CO          | HCC   |
| Cooney-Fogg, Linda Sec I    | McWCI | Johnson, Karen Payroll Clk | McWCI |
| Diaz, Jose CO               | McWCI | Kozak, Laurie Lt           | McWCI |
| Dolan, Erinn CHN            | McWCI | Landry, Thomas CFSS II     | McWCI |
| Donahue, Mark Capt          | NCI   | Laplante, Steven CFSS II   | McWCI |

# B B B S Annual Meeting

Pride at Work, Jan. 1 -14, 2006 p.5

Department of Correction staff that serve as mentors within the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program attended the 39<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Tower Suite in Hartford. Attendees were recognized for their contributions to that agency's mentoring program. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest mentoring program in the United States, celebrating one hundred years.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is distinguished by its effective and proven approach to one-to-one mentoring and its impressive track record of matching young people with caring adults in relationships that last and that change the lives of youths and mentors alike.

Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters was established in 1966 in Connecticut and since then they have provided outstanding service to disadvantaged youths in Northwestern Connecticut.



(L-R) GMO Leroy Gay (MWCI), C O Betty Moody (Osborn CI), Director of Security Dennis Jones, Major Kim Weir (WCCI), and Captain Heather Ziembra (Central Office)

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## Did you know ?

*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This week's issue was submitted by Rick Hamel who can be reached at 860.692.7566.*



Living in Connecticut, you know the unpredictable nature of our weather. Driving during severe weather conditions can be demanding. How you handle your vehicle can be the difference between a safe trip and serious trouble. Here are a few helpful tips sure to keep you a little bit safer should you get caught driving in the unexpected:

- Give your car a quick winter check: Make sure that your car has a tune-up; check your headlights; top off the windshield washer fluid; check the tread on your tires; try to keep the fuel tank filled.
- Before heading out, clean off all the windows of your car and carry a flashlight, flares, blanket, sand and shovel with you. It might even be a good idea to keep a gallon of water in the car with you, too. Also, keep your mirrors clear.
- Wear sunglasses to cut the glare of the sun.
- Travel on main routes instead of trying to take a shortcut and give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination.
- Stay clear of plows; don't try to pass them. Often the road behind the snowplow is in much better shape than the road ahead of the plow.
- Watch out for pedestrians; bundled up in the cold, they may not hear your vehicle. This also applies to children who may be out sledding; you never know when a child on a sled may shoot out onto the roadway.
- Use your signals well in advance of making a turn. Turn the signal off after the turn.
- Be prepared to stop quickly. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the other vehicles around you.
- Slow down before reaching an intersection; when approaching an icy hill, pick a path that will allow you the most traction and build your speed gradually before you reach the hill.
- Be aware of the traction available on the roadway. Slow down if it gets too slippery and stop altogether if it gets too treacherous. Also, keep in mind that bridges freeze before road surfaces so four-wheel drive may help you get going, but it does nothing to help you stop.
- If you do happen to get stuck in snow or ice, take it slow. Hard acceleration is likely to worsen the situation by causing your tires to dig deeper in the snow. If you're unable to free your vehicle, carefully assess the weather conditions before abandoning it.



# Agency Good Neighbors Spreading Holiday Cheer

**Enfield CI** - Records Specialist Bernine Holmberg read an article about the Connecticut Children's Place at Warehouse Point and she approached Warden Peter Murphy to suggest that staff sponsor them during the Christmas Holiday. Warden Murphy agreed, so she contacted the Children's Place and they provided her with a wish list for every child at their center. She gathered the entire staff at Enfield CI and presented the project to them. Staff enthusiasm and participation was incredible. Everyone responded to this call! They provided not just one gift but many gifts for the child they sponsored and then some....The Enfield CI staff took over the Warden's Office and turned it into Santa's workshop. Each and every gift was carefully and lovingly put together, wrapped and packaged. The staff at Enfield CI were very proud to have been able to serve these children and to be able to touch their hearts. They also have the reassurance in their hearts that they made a difference in a child's life this holiday season.

**Robinson CI** - Warden Christine Whidden and her staff recently received a letter of thanks from Robert Nolan, Senior Corporate & Foundation Relations



(L- R) Robert Nolan of CCMC, Warden Christine Whidden, Major Jose Feliciano and Recreation Director Brian Labrecque

contribution of \$1000 worth of new toys to our patients who are being treated during the holiday season. Your continued investment through your annual donations to our Center ensures our ability to care for our kids in a manner that makes them more comfortable in the hospital environment. Kids are great.... With your help, we just make them better."

**Central Office** - Staff at Central Office donated to the Toys for Tots Campaign. Captain William Colon, site coordinator would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who participated and contributed to putting a smile on a needy child's face this holiday season.

Officer for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center

(CCMC) in Hartford. CCMC is entering its tenth year of serving the children and families of Connecticut and they recognize the tremendous impact that donors have had in advancing the cause of pediatric health care for the residents of this state and region. Nolan stated, "On behalf of the physicians, staff, patients and families of CCMC, I want to thank the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution staff for their generous

Pride at Work, Jan. 1 - 14, 2006 p.6



Records Specialist Bernine Holmberg poses with the toys donated by CRCI staff



Toys collected for the 2005 Toys for Tots Campaign at Central Office



# Family Holiday Party at MCTSD

Pride at Work, Jan. 1 - 14, 2006 p.7

More than 800 members of the Department of Correction along with their friends & family members came together to share in the festive

activities and holiday cheer at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development as they hosted the agency's Annual Family Oriented Christmas party. The party was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Kids and adults crowded together in the holiday decorated gymnasium. The giant screen television showed continuous Christmas classics, and the "kids" were treated to face painting and balloon animals by Mrs. Clause. DOC staff decked out as Santa's helpers manned the sno-cone and cotton candy stations. The Food Services staff provided a bountiful buffet of treats and goodies. Santa and his "Elves" were also busy taking photos and distributing candy canes filled with



Two happy party-goers take a break from the fun to pose under the tree

chocolate. Those who attended the event were asked to bring an unwrapped toy. The toys were donated to Nutmeg Big Brothers/ Big Sisters.



Santa (Lt. Leone - MCTSD) poses for a shot with his helper (Lt. Taylor - MCTSD).



Little girl with face painted as a princess enjoying her sweet treat



A young party-goer helps himself at the dessert table.

## Calendar



**February 3 - Retirement Party** in honor of District Administrator Remi

Acosta will be held at The Farmington Club on 162 Town Farm Road in Farmington from 6 p.m. - Midnight. The donation is \$50 and includes a gift, cocktail hour, dinner, 3-hour open bar, DJ, and dancing. For info contact Suzanne Smedes at 860.692.6805, Laurie Viscomi at 860.692.7487, Karen O'Keefe at 860.763.8017, Scott VanOudenhove at 860.763.8016, Linda Harper at 203.250.2603 or Yolanda Acosta at 203.270.2857.

**Incarcerated  
on  
January 1, 2005**

2 2 4 1 0

On January 1, 2005 the population was 22,348.



**EMPLOYEE  
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PROGRAM**

**(888) EAP-2880**